

10 - Health Care

Health care is a basic human right. Our government should assure, and guarantee by law, accessible and affordable health care for all.

We believe in establishing an ethically-based, not-for-profit health care system, serving patients and public health needs focusing on optimal patient outcomes at a cost we can afford.

We call for:

- A comprehensive, single-payer national health care plan emphasizing prevention, primary care, and chronic disease management, using available evidence-based guidelines;
- Quality outpatient and inpatient services; acute and long-term care; home, residential, and hospice care, including Death with Dignity; mental health care and substance abuse programs; dental, visual, and hearing services; family planning with contraceptive care; alternative care; and rehabilitation, according to health care needs;
- Affordable coverage of prescription drugs, medical supplies and durable medical equipment;
- Development and implementation of an interim universal state plan.
- A unified electronic health record system that safeguards patient privacy;
- A strong patient bill of rights, including the right to refuse care;
- Public health policy based on sound scientific guidelines following recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;
- Increasing the supply of health care providers with incentives for working in primary care as well as underserved communities and populations;
- Increasing funding for medical research based solely on scientific merit;
- Support of global family planning;
- Government to use its purchasing power to negotiate prices for pharmaceuticals and medical devices for health plans.

We oppose:

- Spend-down requirements for persons eligible for Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance before they can receive Medicaid;
- Direct- to-consumer-advertising of prescription drugs.